

LAKES: Overcrowding may have environmental impact

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Hampshire researcher Jacquie Colburn as “the amount of development and activity a body of water can handle before it starts to deteriorate.”

The methodology for the local study was pulled from other models done in other locales, varying from a state environmental agency to a power company.

The local study collected data for Lake Gage and Lake James in Steuben County. Other work was being conducted for Oliver Lake in LaGrange County.

Based on data from other studies, the Gage and James studies show the lakes to have a much greater number of watercraft than they can handle.

An average of the methodology from the other studies revealed that Lake Gage had a carrying capacity of 21 boats on the lake at the same time and for Lake James the capacity was 58 boats. In August 2005, a count of all watercraft at dock was conducted for the two lakes. Gage had 566 boats and James had 2,032 boats. Lake Gage covers 332 acres. Lake James is 1,039 acres.

LeFevre said there were three effects from overcrowding: diminished ecology, safety concerns and reduced enjoyment of lake users.

More in depth study was needed to determine the environmental effects of overcrowding, LeFevre said.

The study said it was possible that greater regulations could be put on boating. For example, LeFevre said, the state could limit the speed at which a boat could travel. Currently on lakes greater than 300 surface acres, there isn't a speed limit in Indiana.

LeFevre suggested a speed limit that didn't deter activities such as skiing.

“The ones that are going 80 and 90 mph are a hazard,” he said.

At Lake Gage, much more in-depth analysis is being conducted this summer. This includes a visual study of lake use and a survey on lake residents' opinions.

Pete Hippensteel, Tri-State University professor emeritus, gave an overview of the council's activities as it enters its 35th year.

“How you reduce 35 years into 10 or 15 minutes is a signifi-

cant problem,” said Hippensteel, one of the Lakes Council's organizers who has held its presidency 10 different years.

Hippensteel pointed out that the council has had a great impact in many areas, from education to lobbying for various government regulations and from litigating to solving pollution problems.

“Though we've accomplished a great deal over 35 years, we have a lot to do,” Hippensteel said.

Because Steuben County rests at the start of two watersheds, Hippensteel said, all water quality issues start locally.

“Basically, any water pollution in this county originates in this county,” he said.

In addition, Pam DeCamp, education coordinator of the Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management District, gave a talk on the agency's services. She also said lake associations need to unite to get lower prices and greater service from waste haulers.

Three members-at-large to the council were selected. Scott Perry and Richard Buzzard were re-elected and Max Robison was elected to a first term.



MATT GETTS

Noble County Special Operation Group commander Doug Harp, second from right,

holds a briefing following Friday's drug raid on C.R. 400E west of Kendallville.

METH: Welfare of children put halt to drug investigation

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felony counts of conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine.

- Dale L. Trowbridge, 46, of Ligonier on a Class A felony charge of manufacturing methamphetamine.

- Jennifer Trowbridge, 26, of Ligonier on two Class A felony counts of manufacturing methamphetamine.

- Jackie Hammel, 34, of Kendallville on a Class A felony count of manufacturing methamphetamine.

Arrested subsequently were:

- Renee Randol, 32, of Rome City on charges of neglect of a dependent, a Class D felony; possession of methamphetamine, a Class D felony; taking a child to a nuisance, a Class A misdemeanor; and visiting a common nuisance, a Class B misdemeanor.

- Jerrod E. Geiger, 35, of Albion on a Class A felony charge of conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine and a Class A felony charge of manufacturing methamphetamine.

All of the suspects are being held without bond in the Noble County Jail.

Friday's raid was made possible by the undercover I.M.A.G.E. officer, who supplied valuable information and evidence as authorities built cases against numerous individuals.

According to Noble County Sheriff Gary Leatherman, getting inside such an alleged criminal enterprise is not easy.

“In a small, rural community it's difficult because everybody knows who the other players are,” Leatherman said. “They're skeptical. They've got their own network.”

Leatherman described the work done by the undercover officer as “extremely dangerous.”

“The thought is always in the back of their minds: Do they know who I am?” Leatherman said. “You don't know if or when they're going to make you.”

The key, according to a veteran I.M.A.G.E. undercover officer, is caution.

“You just be as careful as you can be,” the officer said. “Every little thing you do and say with these people is planned out.”

“Most of these (meth cooks) have known each other for years.”

Undercover officers have to be “in character” all the time. They have to watch how they dress, where they go, who they associate with. Their best friends may be other police officers, but they can't associate with them



MATT GETTS

Noble County Prosecuting Attorney Steve Clouse, right, confers with members of the Noble County Special Operations Group, including Doug Ewell, center, at the conclusion of Friday's raid on a suspected drug operation on C.R. 400E west of Kendallville.

from fear of having their cover blown.

Over the last three months, I.M.A.G.E. officers had received \$25,000 in methamphetamine from the operation, according to authorities.

The case-building and evidence gathering continued until July 11.

At that time, the undercover officer told Noble County Prosecuting Attorney Steve Clouse that he had observed children at the scene.

“At that point, we put the brakes (on),” Clouse said. “I said, ‘We won't go any further.’”

Concerned with the welfare of children in an environment where methamphetamine was being manufactured, Clouse decided at that point to shut the operation down.

It wasn't as easy as just calling in the troops.

Officers from four different counties had to be contacted. Then came the planning stage of the operation as the undercover officer continued to gather evidence and build cases.

Planning began July 12, and all the pieces came together Friday.

“It went very, very well,” Noble County Sheriff's Department Chief Deputy Doug Harp said of Friday's operation. “It really went awfully close to plans.”

Harp commands Noble County's Special Operations Group.

The special operations teams

together once a month, facilitating efforts such as Friday's raid.

“It's a great thing training with the other teams,” Harp said. “It pays huge dividends.”

Having the resources of so many officers makes operations like Friday's possible, according to Leatherman.

“We can't do it on our own,” Leatherman said.

Dale Trowbridge had been arrested Wednesday on charges unrelated to Friday's raid, according to a police press release.

In that instance, sheriff's deputies and K-9 handlers David Worman and Doug Ewell had their dogs performing random K-9 sniffs through the jail parking lot when Worman's K-9 alerted to a vehicle. The officers contacted the owner of the vehicle, Trowbridge, who had been visiting an inmate at the jail, and based upon the probable cause generated by the K-9 alert, searched the vehicle.

A blue plastic container found inside the pickup between the driver's seat and center console allegedly contained two plastic bags containing approximately two grams of methamphetamine and a glass smoking pipe.

Trowbridge was charged with possession of meth, a Class D felony and possession of paraphernalia, a Class B misdemeanor. He bonded out of jail, only to be arrested on Friday.

BLACKMAN: Plans a career as a music therapist

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finished as second runner-up in 2004 and 2005.

When asked why she likes to compete in pageants, Blackman said, “for the scholarships, and it's a good experience.”

One question she was asked on stage during the pageant competition, was: “If you won the lottery, how would this change your life?”

Blackman's response: “I wouldn't be in debt, and that would be wonderful.”

She wins a \$3,000 scholarship, an all expense-paid trip to the Miss Indiana Pageant, a trophy, a crown, a fashion award and roses from Home Sweet Home.

The junior at Indiana Purdue University at Fort Wayne is majoring in music therapy and minoring in psychology. She plans a career as a music therapist.

Her platform is promoting community arts programs for children.

Danielle Beiswanger, 19, daughter of Jim and Susan Mertz and the late Dorane Beiswanger, Wolcottville, was first runner-up. She was also voted Miss Congeniality by her competitors.

For her talent, the Ball State University sophomore performed a lyrical dance to the song “Never Alone.”

Beiswanger is majoring in nursing and minoring in dance and plans a career in the medical field.

She wins a \$1,500 scholarship and a trophy.

Alexandra Elayne Maxwell, 19, daughter of Dan and Karen Maxwell of Kendallville, was second runner-up and the People's Choice award winner.

The 2006 East Noble graduate plans to attend Indiana University and study communications and culture and theater.

For her talent, Maxwell performed the song “Home” from the Broadway musical “Beauty and the Beast.”

She wins a \$1,000 scholarship and a trophy.

Other contestants were Kari Carter, 21, daughter of Dennis Carter and Karen Stahly, Ligonier; Erin Lyn Blaine, 19, daughter of Lynn and Debbie Blaine of Kendallville; and



DENNIS WAFER

Miss Limberlost 2006 Kristen Blackman, back row right, crowned Saturday night, poses with winners from Friday night's Miss Limberlost pageants. Shown left to right in the front row, are: Lauren Butler, Pre-Teen Miss Limberlost, and Taryn Campbell, Little Miss Limberlost. In the back row are Heather Leitch, Miss Teen Limberlost, and Blackman.

Sydney E. F. Booth, 18, daughter of William and Dr. Lisa N. Booth, Howe. Each of the non-finalists wins a \$100 scholarship.

Winners from Friday night's Little Miss, Pre-Teen and Teen Miss Limberlost pageants were crowned Saturday night.

Taryn Campbell, 8, daughter of Rob and Tammy Smith and Glenn Campbell of Avilla, was crowned Little Miss Limberlost. She wins a \$100 cash award, a trophy, bracelet, tiara, a Miss America Bear and flowers. She was also the people's choice award winner.

Lynsee Devers, 8, daughter of Jeff and Linda Devers, Kendallville, was first runner-up.

Lauren Butler, 10, daughter of Scott and Carla Butler of Kendallville, was crowned Pre-Teen Miss Limberlost. She wins a \$100 cash award, a trophy, bracelet, tiara, Miss America Bear and flowers.

Kailee Nicole Blackman, 12, daughter of Jon and Amanda

Blackman and Cyndi Blackman, of Kendallville, was first runner-up, and Kelsie Duehmig, 12, daughter of Tony and Monica Duehmig, of Kendallville, was the people's choice award winner.

In the Teen Miss Limberlost competition, Heather Leitch, 16, daughter of Sherry Mullins, Wolf Lake, was crowned the winner and won the people's choice award. She wins a \$100 cash award, a trophy, bracelet, tiara, Miss America Bear and flowers.

Caitlin Moore, 15, daughter of Dave and Tammy Moore, Avilla, was first runner-up.

Miss Indiana Betsy Uschhrat of Bloomington, Miss Outstanding Indiana Teen Leanna Ross of New Carlisle and outgoing Miss Limberlost Lindsey Helmer of Avilla performed during the pageant.

Judges were Lindsay Shipps-Tienna, Holly Parks, John Wenning, Lynn Rodgers and Suellen Kipp.

RESOLUTION: Draft required compromise for its acceptance

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President Bush is “happy with the progress being made” at the United Nations, but knows cementing a cease-fire will not be easy, White House press secretary Tony Snow said.

“I don't think he has any delusions about what lies ahead,” said Snow, who was with the president on his vacation at his private ranch in Crawford, Texas.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair praised the resolution as “an important first step in bringing this tragic crisis to an end.”

“The priority now is to get the resolution adopted as soon as possible, and then to work for a permanent cease-fire and achieve the conditions in Lebanon and Israel which will prevent a recurrence,” Blair said.

The Security Council convened later Saturday to discuss the draft. Diplomats said the document was likely to be adopted early next week at a meeting attended by the foreign ministers of the 15 council members.

The resolution's central demand was for “a full cessation of hostilities based upon, in particular, the immediate cessation by Hezbollah of

all attacks and the immediate cessation by Israel of all offensive military operations.”

The document then charted a detailed path for the two sides to follow to achieve a lasting peace. It envisioned a second resolution in a week or two that would authorize an international military force for the Israel-Lebanon frontier.

Among those steps would be the creation of a large buffer zone in southern Lebanon free of both Israeli troops and Hezbollah militants, monitored by the Lebanese army and international peacekeepers.

The draft also called for Hezbollah to be disarmed and for Lebanon's borders to be solidified, especially in the disputed Chebaa Farms area, occupied by Israel since 1967.

Another element was an arms embargo that would block any entity in Lebanon except the national government from obtaining weapons from abroad. That was aimed at blocking the sale or supply of arms to Hezbollah from Iran and Syria, which are believed to be the militia's main backers.

The resolution would put significant pressure on Lebanon's government, which ceded control of the south to Hezbollah.

“This is not a resolution that provides the comprehensive solution,” U.S. Ambassador John Bolton said. “I'm sure there are aspects of it that are displeasing to almost everyone but the point is this is a way to get started and that's what we hope to do.”

The draft's chief goal is to ensure that southern Lebanon does not slip back into the same state it was in before Israel's offensive, which began after Hezbollah guerrillas raided northern Israel on July 12 in fighting that left eight soldiers dead and two captured.

“Who could imagine that such a drama could happen again?” French Ambassador Jean-Marc de La Sabliere said. “It would be irresponsible.”

The U.S. and France had to compromise to get the draft adopted.

Washington backed off its demand for a package of immediate steps, including the deployment of the international force in conjunction with a cease-fire.



AP

An Israeli policeman searches in a kitchen of an apartment in the northern Israeli town of Kiryat Shmona after it was hit by a Hezbollah rocket Saturday.